

Remarks of Congressman Henry A. Waxman
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
March 26, 2014

Thank you.

I've been working with Planned Parenthood for four decades now—and we can agree it's been a roller-coaster in the Congress:

- Family planning used to be a bipartisan issue with support from Congressman Bush and President Nixon.
- But then there was the Reagan proposal to repeal and block-grant Title Ten.
- And then there was the Chastity Program.
- And then the Squeal Rule and the Gag Rule.
- And then millions of dollars for abstinence-only disinformation.

These were the bad times. There were good ones, too.

- Despite everything, we still have a Title Ten program.
- We have steadily expanded the coverage of the Medicaid program. It has evolved to reach more and more women and children, many with full health coverage and millions more with family-planning waivers.
- And now there is the full health coverage of the Affordable Care Act, including family planning as the essential benefit it is.

But as the Supreme Court continues to remind us even this week, each bit of progress in reproductive health is hard-fought.

- We got Medicaid for all poor people under the ACA—and the Court took it away.
- We have family planning as a minimum insurance benefit—and the Court is threatening it.
- And we have freedom for women to choose safe and legal abortion—and the courts and State legislatures are eroding it.

Over these years, we've learned that we can take nothing for granted and that nothing is ever fully secure.

But the best defender of these programs and these rights has been Planned Parenthood. Whether the political roller coaster has been slowly going up or plunging down, you have been holding on. As a Member of Congress, as a Chairman and as a Ranking minority member, as a legislator and as an investigator—I've always known that I could turn to you for facts, for smarts, and for the courage of your convictions. **Our** convictions. Our convictions that reproductive health is essential health care, that low-income people deserve health care, and that a woman should be able to make her own choices.

I can't say we have always enjoyed the roller-coaster ride. But I'm glad we could do it together.

Thank you.